

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-11 SAJ-01 EB-07

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PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /087 R

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EUR/EE:NGANDREWS

H:KJENKINS

C:WSHINN

S/S:FORTIZ

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O R 270044Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019586

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EEWT, CVIS, PFOR, RO

SUBJECT: EMIGRATION

REFS: A) BUCHAREST 294; B) STATE 5908; C) BUCHAREST 194;
D) BUCHAREST 046; E) BUCHAREST 292

1. IN MEETING WITH FONMIN MACOVESCU WHICH WE UNDERSTAND
IS NOW TENTATIVELY SET FOR JAN. 29 (REF A) WE WOULD LIKE
YOU TO MENTION THE FOLLOWING:

A) OUR CONCERN OVER THE DROP IN EMIGRATION BOTH
TO THE US AND ISRAEL SINCE OCTOBER, THE LAST RELATIVELY
SATISFACTORY MONTH (REFS B, C, AND D). SHOULD THE RATE
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REMAIN AT THE NOV-DEC LEVELS (OR EVEN DROP FURTHER AS

INITIAL JAN. FIGURES INDICATE COULD BE THE CASE), WE WOULD FIND IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO TAKE THE POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE CONGRESS AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY WHEN THE TRADE AGREEMENT COMES BEFORE THE CONGRESS NEXT JUNE THAT THE RESOLUTION OF HUMANITARIAN CASES IS PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY.

B) OUR EXPECTATION THAT CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THE EMIGRATION QUESTION WILL REMAIN HIGH THIS ELECTION YEAR. IN OUR JUDGMENT, THE CONGRESS WILL SCRUTINIZE THE

EMIGRATION SITUATION WITH JUST AS MUCH CARE THIS SUMMER AS LAST.

C) THE DIFFICULTY WE HAVE IN EXPLAINING TO THE CONGRESS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES IN THE US DRASTIC FLUCTUATIONS IN THE NUMBERS OF APPROVALS FOR EMIGRATION AS WELL AS IN THE NUMBERS OF THOSE ACTUALLY DEPARTING. THE RESERVOIR OF CONFIDENCE IN GOR PERFORMANCE IS LIMITED AND THEREFORE A REASONABLY STEADY FLOW IS REQUIRED TO ALLAY SUSPICION THAT THE GOR IS DELIBERATELY MANIPULATING THE RATE. WE EXPECT BOTH THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY WOULD BE GREATLY DISTURBED SHOULD EMIGRATION FIGURES HOLD FOR SEVERAL MORE MONTHS AT THE NOV-DEC LEVELS, THEN EXPERIENCE A "MIRACULOUS RESSURECTION" IN MAY OR JUNE JUST BEFORE THE TRADE AGREEMENT IS AGAIN BEFORE THE CONGRESS. WE WOULD FIND THIS EQUALLY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND. TO AVOID THIS, EMIGRATION TO THE US SHOULD RISE NOW TO SOMETHING LIKE THE JULY-NOVEMBER RATE AND REMAIN THERE. THERE ARE SUFFICIENT PERSONS WISHING TO EMIGRATE TO THE US AND QUALIFIED FOR THIS TO SUSTAIN SUCH A FLOW, AS EVIDENCED BY OUR DEC REP LIST. THE RATE OF DEPARTURES FOR ISRAEL HAS ALSO DROPPED OFF, AND EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN ABOUT THIS FROM BOTH THE CONGRESS AND JEWISH REPRESENTATIVES ARE ALREADY BEING HEARD.

D) OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE PUBLIC ANTI-EMIGRATION CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY CEAUSESCU IN DECEMBER AND CARRIED
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ON IN THE MEDIA SINCE (REF E). WHATEVER THE MOTIVATION FOR OR THE PRACTICAL EFFECT OF THE ANTI-EMIGRATION PROPAGANDA IN ROMANIA, SUCH A CAMPAIGN MAY BE MISUNDERSTOOD IN THE US AND COULD HAVE AN ADVERSE AFFECT ON THE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH THE CONGRESS WILL REVIEW THE TRADE AGREEMENT.

2. AMBASSADOR MAY WISH TO OMIT PARA 1-D ABOVE IN

CONVERSATION WITH MACOVESCU. WE HAVE, HOWEVER,
MENTIONED IT TO THE ROMANIAN EMBASSY HERE. THE EMIGRE
COMMUNITY HAS ALREADY NOTED THIS OFFICIAL INVEIGHING
AGAINST EMIGRANTS AND, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, IS DRAWING
THE WORST POSSIBLE CONCLUSIONS ABOUT GOR INTENTIONS. KISSINGER

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